

### Importance to Canada

Canada has a clear interest in a stable world and in reducing the risks of local and regional conflicts. The developments taking place in the various regions can affect Canada in a number of ways, directly or indirectly, in terms of material interests or humanitarian concerns. They may, as in the case of the Persian Gulf, affect NATO strategy, and thus have a bearing on Canada's commitments to the Alliance. They may, as in the case of Central America or the Gulf, raise the possibility of a peacekeeping role for Canada along the lines of the role it is currently playing in the Middle East and Cyprus. To take the case of the Gulf again, they may affect world oil supplies and therefore Canada's oil needs and its policy in the Arctic. Or they may, as in the Caribbean region and South Asia, have an impact on immigration and on related ethnic communities in Canada.

### Recommendations for Canadian Policies

Clearly, it is impossible for Canada to address all the challenges which problems in these various regions present. Careful assessment of their impact and prioritization of Canadian efforts must be undertaken so as to ensure that the most effective contribution is made to their resolution consistent with our limited resources. In general Canada should approach these security issues in a holistic fashion, recognizing that its continued support for Official Development Assistance (ODA) is an essential complement to defence expenditures in contributing to international security.

In Central America Canada may well find that it has a role to play in promoting the peace process. That role could be either civilian or military; it could even include an